

**REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2005**

**Board of Finance Members Present:** Robert K. Pagani-Chairman, Robert J. Clements, Vaughn E. Gerber, Mark A. Joyse, Barry C. Pinto

**Others Present:** Several High School Students

The Chairman opened the meeting at 8:07 pm.

**Citizens Forum**

No one came forward.

**Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of December 14, 2004**

**MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED TO APPROVE  
THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 14, 2004 AS WRITTEN.**

**New Business**

Mr. Pagani explained to the audience that the Town of Ellington only borrows for bricks and mortar. He explained that the Town had received a grant for the purchase of open space and farm land and that with the purchases of the Porter Road parcels, the funds were about finished up. The Board of Finance tonight needs to discuss what the next move will be. He read a letter from the Conservation Commission into the record. The Commission wants to come up with a blue print to accomplish the preservation of land from development. Other towns in the area such as Hebron and Tolland have funded for land preservation. The money would be authorized to be spent if appropriate parcels of land became available.

Mr. Joyce stated that the Build-Out Analysis confirmed that the Town needs conservation if it is going to maintain its rural integrity. The town needs to purchase land or the development rights. Right now the funding comes from the fee in lieu of open space from the developers and from budget funding. This line item almost never makes it through the budget reductions. He feels it should be a separate budget line item to be voted on separate from the budget. This way it lives on its own merit. The reason for this is that he feels it needs to be a substantial amount of money, perhaps modeled after the Town of Tolland at 1.75 million dollars to be spent over 2-3 years.

Mr. Clements stated he does not think it will work, but if the mill rate increase for this item as well as the budget is spelled out, he would agree to give it a try. He stated that the contingency fund started the same way, with some opposition to it. He wondered if the Board of Finance could commit \$75,000 a year for land acquisition as we had done in the past for the BOE computer technology.

Mr. Joyse stated that it is a plan for the future and if it does not pass, it does not go back for another vote as the budget does. He also felt that it needed more than \$75,000/year since the Town needs to compete with developers for any land that becomes available.

Mr. Clements asked why the developers don't shoulder this burden. Mr. Pagani stated that it goes back to the state level and the lobbyists.

Mr. Gerber agreed with Mr. Joyse that something needs to be done and would like to try this approach.

Mr. Pinto stated that he does not think there would be much support by the taxpayers for a large item without a specific parcel identified. He feels a yearly commitment might fly.

Mr. Pagani stated that the Conservation Commission should be charged with the promoting of this, not the Board of Finance. Mr. Joyse agreed. Mr. Pagani asked that the Chairman of the Conservation Commission be invited to the February regular meeting to discuss land preservation.

Budget guidelines were then discussed. It was decided that along with the 1% increase that was discussed last month, the contingency fund would be funded for \$125,000 and the capital improvements would be funded at 1 mill as in prior years.

Next month's meeting will include the Assessors report and the Tax Collector's report. The Tax Collector may not be able to attend, but as long as she submits a report to the Board, it can be used as a guideline.

### **Adjournment**

**MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (JOYSE) AND PASSED TO ADJOURN  
THE MEETING AT 9:28 PM.**

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_  
Lori Smith, Clerk